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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Finke DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON (3)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SEP 5

HEREWITH HUE 174 DATED SEPT 4, 1966 SIGNED CORCORAN.

C O N F I D E N T I A L HUE 174

SEP 4

FROM COLEBAUGH

III MAF PASS INFO 107 TO POLAD FRANCIS

REF: HUE 173

RSR

1. SEPTEMBER 2 MEETING HELD AT TU DAM PAGODA FROM 1000 UNTIL 1500 HOURS. MEETING ATTENDED BY LOCAL BUDDHIST UNIT CHIEFS (KHUON TRUONG) AND PRESIDED OVER BY THICH MAT NGUYEN. MEETING STRECHED OVER LONG PERIOD BECAUSE UNITS CHIEFS DIFFICULT TO ASSEMBLE. ACTUAL NUMBER WHO ATTENDED UNKNOWN.

2. PURPOSE OF MEETING REPORTEDLY TO RELATE FOLLOWING TWO POINTS:

(A) THICH MAT NGUYEN ASKED UNIT CHIEFS TO INFORM THEIR PEOPLE THAT THICH TRI QUANG IN 85TH DAY OF HUNGER STRIKE

(B) REGARDING ELECTION DAY ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1966, BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION DOES NOT ADVISE BUDDHISTS TO VOTE, BUT NEITHER WILL THE ASSOCIATION OBSTRUCT BUDDHISTS FROM VOTING. VOTING DEPENDS ON INDIVIDUAL BUDDHIST'S OWN DESIRES.

3. COMMENT: NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR WHETHER THIS REPRESENTS A SWITCH IN POSITION BY VHD OR JUST A LOCAL FACE-SAVING MOVE IN VIEW VOTERS RECEIVING STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT TO VOTE FROM AUTHORITIES AND BUDDHIST LEADERS REALIZE PEOPLE WILL PROBABLY VOTE. LATTER IS PROBABLY THE CASE. INFORMATION REGARDING MEETING NOT YET CONFIRMED.

GP-3. LODGE.

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